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SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/ERA - BISHARAT AND EUR/AGS - VIKMANIS-KELLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/20/2016

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO AUSTRIA IN ADVANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 27
FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING (GAERC)

REF: STATE 25937

Classified By: Economic-Political Counselor Gregory E. Phillips. Reaso
ns: 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (SBU) EconPolCouns delivered reftel points on February 21
to Klaus Famiira, the Austrian MFA's acting European
Correspondent.

2. (C) Famiira made the following substantive comments:

-- On the Balkans: Meetings of the Political and Security
Committee (PSC) on February 21 and 22 will consider
incentives the EU could offer for Belgrade and Pristina.
Montenegro will take up the bulk of the discussions, and the
EU will likely issue a message of support for Ambassador
Lajcak's efforts. Commissioner Rehn will report on the trip
he and Barroso made to the region.

-- Iran: EU bodies are preparing draft conclusions, and the
PSC will discuss reports that Iran wants to suspend
cooperation with the EU-3. It will be important for the U.S.
and EU not to let Iran split them.

-- Hamas: It is not certain that Hamas will be on the
agenda. The Commission is working on its position. There is
some concern that the Palestinian Authority's inability to
meet its financial obligations would contribute to further
instability. That said, the U.S. and EU agree on conditions
(recognizing Israel's right to exist, renouncing violence and
disarming as a militia),

-- Iraq: Iraq is on the agenda, and there will be
discussions of future developments in the political process.
Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner will brief the GAERC on the
state of play on opening a Commission office in Baghdad.

-- Congo: There is an options paper on different forms of
EU involvement. High Representative Solana will report on
the situation in the region.
McCaw